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NO SUTLER IN THIS WAR

His Place Is Supplied by the "Post Exchange," Which Furnishes Luxuries to the Men — Reminiscences of the Late Contest.

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We read of the hordes of mountebanks and dancing girls, artisans and tradesmen of all descriptions that formed a second army nearly as large as the fighting force of Xerxes, and, from all accounts, Antony and his officers enjoyed a life of splendor and luxury that turned their camp into a carnival where Rome's favorite artists and celebrated cooks were camp followers. Even Napoleon's army was cumbered with a following of venders of the luxuries and pleasures of life who lived upon the soldiers.

All this has no place in modern armies. Even the sutler has been done away with by the government's competion. In most European countries no sutlers are allowed within the lines. They may still have access to our men, but as the government is prepared to supply their stock in trade at cost, and as they will no longer have any standing as they had during the civil war, when the authorities would see that their bills were paid and take their wares on army railroads, soldiers of this war cannot enjoy the jolly pastime of "rallying on the sutler," which the boys of '61 indulged in when other means of diversion were lacking, or when some unscrupulous or overgrasping sutler earned their enmity.

During our last war the sutler was a regular institution. Through him alone the officers and men obtained the little luxuries that are absolutely necessary even to men living the rough life of the army. Beef or pork, beans, bread and tea or coffee are the regular government rations, at frequent intervals vegetables and dried fruits being supplied in addition. But there are a hundred other articles which soldiers find it hard to do without. Cheese, oatmeal, pickles, maccaroni, tobacco, pipes, shoestrings, note paper, handkerchiefs and towels—all these things a Yankee soldier needs, and the sutler provided them. Whisky was another article that the sutler kept to supply a continuous demand. The sutler was therefore carefully looked after and given full privileges as regards transportation on army railroads and over military roads leading to the camp. The sutler's wagon followed closely the advance guard of the army, and wherever the soldiers camped for the night a sutler's wagon was on hand near the center of each brigade to sell to every soldier who had money or credit. When a camp was permanent the sutlers would bring up a great variety and quantity of goods and establish themselves in houses or sheds, after the fashion of country shopkeepers.

The army sutlers were by no means of the class of ordinary city peddlers or vegetable venders. Many of them were right clever fellows. One of the most popular sutlers of the army of the Potomac was Jerry McKibben, brother of Lieut. "Dave" McKibben and Col. "Joe" McKibben. It is good stock. "Brave as Dave McKibben" was a familiar expression in the army of the Potomac after the day that Lieut. McKibben went out from the ranks in the face of the enemy and picked up a flag that had fallen when the color sergeant was shot. Jerry McKibben had half a dozen wagons. His headquarters was at Fair Oaks when the army was in front of Richmond, and he had a big store there. McKibben made a good deal of money, but he came under the influence of the reckless spirit of army life and spent his earnings lavishly. After the war he was proprietor of the Girard house in Philadelphia for many years. While the sutler's outfits were usually safe in camp, they were many times looted for one cause or other, and then the unfortunate sutler had little redress. If a sutler caused a soldier to be arrested for "rallying" on him life with that brigade would be unendurable, not to say impossible. An incident is related by one of the officers of the army of the Potomac about a newly-arrived sutler who had previously been engaged in dealing in clothes on Baxter street in New York, and who did not appreciate the fact that there was no "copper" around the corner to whom he might appeal if he drew forth the displeasure of his customers. His prices were exorbitant, and when the officer remonstarated with him he replied in true Bowery profanity. The soldiers grouped about the sutler's shanty asked the officer to allow them to "clean out" the sutler. The officer took out his watch and told the sutler he could have three minutes in which to get his whole stock out of the house and into his wagon, which stood just outside the window. When the sutler saw that the captain meant what he said he began frantically to throw his possessions out of the window into the wagon. Only a small portion was removed when "charge" was called, and, with a wild rush, half a regiment was into the shanty, where not so much as a pickle remained after the onslaught.

On the field the government takes the place of sutler. The government supply tents, with counters before the doorway, are scattered all through our camps.

The troops can get at cost such delicacies as sirup, chocolate, fancy cheese, extra Java coffee, ginger crackers, canned lobster, canned oysters, mock turtle soup, Worcestershire sauce and luxuries like damask towels, tooth brushes, gold-plated collar buttons and cashmere bouquet soap. Soldiers are no longer allowed to have whisky. At Tampa it is almost impossible to get anything more alcoholic than coffee to drink. No one is allowed within the lines without a pass.

In the barracks the sutler's place is supplied by the "post exchange," a kind of soldiers' club. The exchange is in charge of an officer, but its profits are divided among the men. All the goods used at a military post are secured from its exchange, which also supplies light wines and beer. It is not generally known that the government provides no rations for its officers. This has given rise to the formation of a sort of exchange in the field, by which the officers will board with the men, paying a monthly stipend, which the men can use to get extras with, like milk and butter. A number of our militia officers are now doing this. This arrangement does away with a number of camp followers who otherwise would be needed to look after the officers' messes. Most of the camp followers of our present army will be the servants of the officers. Officers are not restricted as regards servants, except by the rule that no maid servants are allowed within the lines. These servants, besides acting as body servants, attend to their masters' washing, and forage for delicacies for his table. In the civil war these servants, mostly negroes, added to the picturesqueness of both camps. One would be ironing his master's shirts with a hot stone, another polishing up the brass buttons on a general's uniform, while an admiring group of contrabands of various sizes and shades would be clustered about "Major Jones' nigger," who, by necromancy only known to the southern darky, had succeeded in producing a fat turkey from an apparently devastated country. Some of the "Fifth Avenue brigade," of Col. Roosevelt's regiment have taken their valets with them, and there have been a number of applications for positions by "officers' niggers" who have survived the perils of the civil war.

It may be taken for fact that our present army, even though it were not going to such an unhealthy country as Cuba, would have very few camp followers who were objectionable to the authorities. They did not get through the lines during the last war to any extent. Gamblers and dissolute people generally soon learn that they had better keep away from our armies on the field. It is true that during the civil war a swarm of harpies from the slums of northern cities followed the armies at a distance for the purpose of swooping down upon a battlefield after the fight. These people never came within the lines of the armies. They took the hides of dead horses, which they were welcome to. If the rapid movements of the armies gave them a chance at a battlefield before the dead were buried and the wounded removed they sometimes committed terrible crimes. They not only stripped the dead of even their shoes, but are said to have killed wounded soldiers, in order to get plunder with as little trouble as possible.

RAIDING A SUTLER IN THE CIVIL WAR.

THE MODERN "POST EXCHANGE."

LONDON'S GREAT WEALTH.

Almost Incalculable Value of Some of Her Realty—Great Buildings and Bridges.

Values of real estate and some other things in the city of London are set forth in an article in a paper published there. Mansion house, which cost $3,500,000 to build, is now valued at fully ten times that figure. The Royal Exchange, as a building of bricks and mortar, is worth $1,000,000, but land in that neighborhood has recently sold at the rate of $10,000,000 an acre. Eight bridges over the Thames cost $25,000,000 to build, but are now worth much more than that, while the tunnels underneath are worth other millions, and the embankment is worth probably double the $10,000,000 it cost to make. If St. Paul's were private property you might induce the owner to sell it for $50,000,000, but the likelihood is very remote. Those tattered banners which you have seen so often would arouse pretty keen bidding at the sales. Westminster abbey is difficult to value. But the sales give us some idea of what historic treasures are worth in the market, and I should not be surprised if the abbey, put up in lots, realized $2,500,000,000.

The British museum empty would be worth $7,500,000, and it is full of priceless treasures. The National gallery is worth millions. It cost, with the new Tate gallery section, $1,750,000 to build, and has one picture which cost $70 an inch. The Nelson column, close by, is worth $250,000, and the statue of King George III., a little way down Pall Mall, cost $20,000. The Albert hall and Royal aquarium are both worth about $1,250,000, but the Crystal palace cost more than three times the value of both of these. Earl's court, the great show rivaling the palace, has millions' worth of treasures, and even when it is empty the 25 acres of gardens and building are worth $1,500,000. Imagine buying the tower, the Holborn viaduct, the miles of sewers, walks and pavements; the various markets, of which four—which are for cattle—cost $50,000,000 between them; think of the hospitals and schools, and fancy the market value of the parks cut into city lots. The entrances alone at Hyde Park are said to have cost nearly $7,500,000.—Philadelphia Times.

FARMER AND PLANTER.

INTENSIVE FARMING.

Without Judicious Crop Rotation Intensive Farming is an Economical Impossibility.

Without it, intensive farming is an economical impossibility. With it both land and farmer become prosperous. It has been often urged and, considering its vital importance, little followed. Without it, our worn lands will continue worn and thin. If southern farmers would practice it 20 years, the productiveness of every acre of upland would be increased fully 50 per cent.; and even if not a pound of fertilizer was bought, our lands at the end of that time would produce as well without guano as they do now with it. If this be true, then it is a matter of great economy.

Why hasn't it been practiced? I think we can trace as the reason the same thing that is the cause of the present worn and run-down condition of many of our formerly best plantations, to-wit: the undirected negro tenant. He is the greatest curse in the south to-day. The negro is the best farm laborer in the world; but at the same time the worse tenant-farmer. His trouble is that he lacks judgment. When this is supplied by the white farmer he becomes a success. It is necessary for the good of the laborer, land and land-owner, all three, that the owner plan and direct. If he does not, he may get his rent in the fall, but his land will be less valuable. In the case of negro tenants this can best be done in the rent contract. This should always specify the kind of crops to be planted, and the number of acres in each, and should require that the kind of crops on particular fields be changed yearly. A great improvement would be to require the tenant to plant 15 acres in cotton, ten acres in corn (with peas between the corn rows, to be picked and not cut or pulled) and five acres in peas, and to make a two-year rotation of these crops, putting in corn and peas next year the 15 acres this year in cotton. Of coure a three-year rotation would improve the land faster than this two-year plan, but we must change plans gradually. Too radical a change is not apt to be permanent. We must learn to walk before we learn to run.

A farmer who tills his own land would be foolish to adopt anything less than the three-year system. It requires less labor per acre, and while it demands about ten acres more land to the plow, it is for this reason more satisfactory, and, in the long run, for more remunerative, even leaving out the increased value of the land. No one will deny that it is far more satisfactory to make $400 a year profit on 80 acres with two hands, than the same amount on 90 acres with three hands. This is about the difference between a three and a two-year rotation.

No matter in what way you look at it the three-year rotation for a cotton farmer seems to be as near perfect as a system can be. For one plow it is as follows:

	Acres.
First year, cotton	15
Second year, { corn	9
{ peas (for hay)	4
Third year, { oats	7
{ wheat	6

Of course, if more than one plow is run, you multiply these numbers of acres by the number of plows, except as to wheat; with it plant what is needed for bread and seed, and the rest of "third-year" land plant to oats, unless you intend to raise wheat to sell.

The land this year in cotton is planted next year in peas and corn, and the year after in oats and wheat, and so on. In each corn row peas are planted for seed. As soon as wheat and oats are cut turn under the stubble, at the same time dropping or drilling peas in every third furrow just behind the plow, to be covered by the next furrow. This was David Dickson's plan; and when peas are to be planted in rows (which is the best way), saves labor. If time is not to be found to cultivate the peas, it may be better and cheaper to broadcast them than to drop or drill.

In this rotation two-thirds of the land grows a renovating crop each year, and one that materially adds to the fertility of the land; so that when this system is followed it is necessarily true that the soil becomes richer every year. When this plan has been followed long enough to make our fields produce a bale of cotton to the acre, then it will be economy to cut all peavines for hay, rather than turn them under for fertilizer and humus. Until this point is reached, however, I am an advocate of using the larger part of the vines for manure, unless the number of stock kept on the farm require them for food.

In this three-year rotation only 22 acres require regular and constant cultivation—those in corn and cotton. And though 39 acres have been set aside as being a fair one-horse farm, it does seem that a good mule ought not to find that number too great when 17 of those acres require little, if any, cultivation. The old rule used to be 20 acres in cotton and 10 in corn; but these 30 acres can be better cultivated than the 30 acres, since because of a greater diversity of crops the work is better distributed during the year and does not all press at once.

I have recently given some study to farming in England, where the yield per acre is much larger than in the south—perhaps double. There crop rotation has long been a matter of necessity, and is universally practiced among all farmers, land-owners and tenants. A tenant would hardly be able to rent land who did not follow the practice. So universal is it that it is generally considered a part (written or unwritten) of the contract of rental.

When land is either to be made fertile or kept fertile, rotation is a necessity, a sine qua non. The practice is all but universal in the east and north of our own country; and must soon have the place in their agriculture that it has in England.

The south has never given it the attention that it dererves. The helping hand it has held out to aid in renewing our worn fields has been pushed aside, and we have continued in the same old cotton rows until the water's furrows have become ditches. The first condition of its help is that two-thirds of our cotton fields be planted in grain or peas; and this we have refused to comply with. Now that cotton has gone to five cents and wheat to one dollar, probably we are in condition to at least listen. We know how to plow and how to hoe, and how to cultivate; but we don't know how to plant and where to plant and what to plant. We need a better plan in "pitching" crops more than greater skill in cultivaton.

The most intelligent and best farmers in each community are largely to blame in this matter, since the others generally follow the pattern set by them. Their methods are followed by the others An imitation is never as good as the original; but an imitation of a good system is always better than an imitation of a bad system.—Wm. T. S., in Southern Cultivator.

THE HOG IN ALABAMA.

The Man Who Improves Domestic Stock is a Public Benefactor—What Has Been Done in Alabama.

At the last semi-annual meeting of the Alabama swine breeders President Samuel M. Handy made an address, in which he strongly advocated improvement of domestic stock, contending that a man was just as much a benefactor who doubles the quantity and improves the quality of butter, milk and pork as the man who caused two blades of grass to grow where but one grew before. He said, after tracing the development in the dairy:

"Scarcely less remarkable is the improvement in swine, the improvement being in shape, size, prolificacy and the capacity for assimilating food, converting it into meat, and in rapid and early development. We have so many examples where weight of 700 to 1,000 pounds acquired at from 16 to 24 months that they scarcely cause comment. A noteworthy example of rapid increase in weight is the seven days' test made by Mr. W. E. Spicer, now of Bushnell, Ill., with his superb sow, No. 7, when 40 pounds were added to her weight in seven days, an average of a trifle over 6¼ pounds per day, weighing at the end of the test 678 pounds. However, under present conditions I regard the attainment of extraordinary size and the rapid increase of weight of mature animals of less importance than the early and rapid growth of the pig. To be able to turn off his shoat of 200 to 300 pounds at six to eight months is of threefold advantage to the farmer. It decreases the hazard of loss by disease, saves the amount of food that would be required merely for maintenance, and enables him to turn his money oftener, not to mention the slightly-increased price which this class always secures on the market. Just how to accomplish such results is the proper and important subject for study and experiment by the farmer and of discussion at such occasions as this.

"Much attention is being given to this part of the problem of improved swine breeding by the breeders throughout the country, but it has been left to Alabama, I believe, and to a valued member of this association, to carry off the laurels in the production of the heaviest litter of pigs at 100 days, 973 pounds being the weight attained, nine of the ten pigs making the remarkable average of 101 pounds each."—Southern Farm Magazine.

Sheep for Georgia.

In Georgia, according to an investigation made by the secretary of agriculture of that state, there is natural pasturage for 5,000,000 sheep in territory where no artificial shelter and no storage of winter fodder are necessary. Commenting upon this the Wool Record says:

"The soil, the water, the almost endless sunshine from season to season in these Georgian highlands and above all things, the wonderful Bermuda grass, which supplies an unfailing food supply from January 1 to December 31 for wool-bearing animals, should make this region the home of perhaps the largest sheep-growing interests on the whole American continent. All the elements here have combined to invite the industry of wool culture, and a curtailment of the cotton crop, such as is now favored by the capitalized supporters of that staple, should, within a very short period, result in the stocking of these Georgia ranges with innumerable flocks of sheep."—Southern Farm Magazine.

HERE AND THERE.

—Many southern newspapers are using the existence of war as a text for urging greater attention to raising more home supplies and less cotton.

—Mr. James Snell, who about two years ago moved from Indiana to Blythe, Ga., says that in that section as fine celery can be raised as the best grown in the famous Kalamazoo district.

—The Florida Times-Union and Citizen is advocating the culture in Florida of arrowroot, casava and koonti, three starch-producing plants of great possibility.

—Mr. George Luntz, of Charleston, S. C., is urging the farmers of South Carolina to experiment in the raising of jute. He contends that the jute plant thrives in the same kind of land as that planted in rice.

—Superficial readers of newspapers may may find no interest in the records of big hogs killed. But the truth is that such items are among the most valuable published. They show a steady purpose to improve the breed of swine.

—Potash and phosphorus are usually deficient in stable manure, and its decay in the soil promotes large growth of fiber, which is not desirable in fruit nor shrubs; but for corn and for top dressing for clover the results prove it most beneficient.

DOGS AS MESSENGERS

Possibilities for Usefulness of the Dog in War.

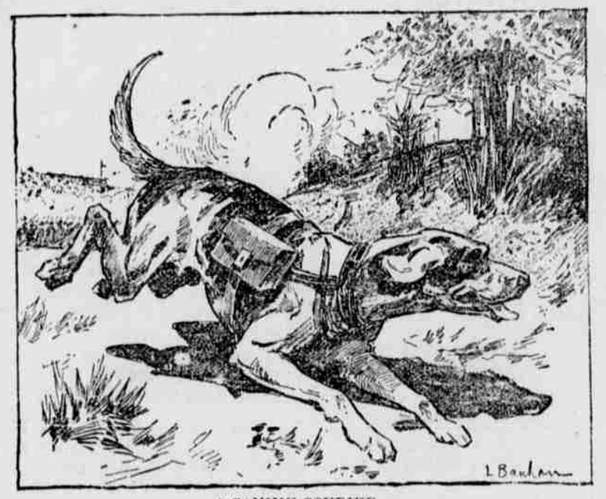
European Powers Are Beginning to Avail Themselves of Canine Intelligence to Carry Army Dispatches.

[Copyright, 1898.]

As the horse goes out, the dog, it would seem, is coming in. Not only have the exigencies of the Klondike put him suddenly in demand as a beast of burden, but his possible usefulness in war is now very seriously discussed. Indeed, in Germany he has already been drafted into the service. The war horse is a familiar figure, but the war dog is something new.

How can he be made use of in war? In many ways. One of the most important, perhaps, is in carrying dispatches. He is far speedier than a man—speedier even than a man on horseback. Small and inconspicuous, he runs far less risk from the bullets of the enemy; and if the poor beast is, after all, killed, he is only a dog—a human life has been saved. He takes a lively interest in his work, eluding the hostile soldiers with characteristic cleverness—for he quickly learns the meaning of their uniform—and delivering his messages with a great show of pride and full appreciation of his own importance. His courage, too, is not a whit inferior to that of the horse, and may sometimes furnish a profitable object lesson to the men, who would be ashamed to be outdone by a dog. He can also be made very serviceable in carrying supplies of ammunition to the front, which he does with the same eager zeal, refusing to stand and deliver to any but the soldiers of his own company, for whom he has a strong fellow feeling.

For both these purposes, collies are generally preferred, combining a high degree of activity and endurance with great natural sagacity. Where silence is imperative, however, they are out of place, since they have an unconquerable habit of barking at the most untimely moments. This rules them out as companions for sentries and scouts; but here pointers and the like may prove extremely helpful, giving warning, without a sound, of the approach and direction of danger when a man would fail to detect it.



A CANINE COURIER.

Still another important service that dogs may render, is searching out the wounded after a battle. For this the St. Bernard would seem to be exceptionally well qualified, his traditional task of finding and succoring travelers lost in the Alpine snows being of a very similar nature. A small case of restoratives might be hung about his neck for the immediate use of wounded men not altogether helpless. In some cases these big, strong, gentle creatures might even assist the partially disabled to make their way to camp or hospital; but in the main, their duty would be that of a guide to the searching parties.

That certain varieties, such as the bulldog and the mastiff might under some conditions be utilized as direct and rather formidable allies in conflict is obvious; but it is more than improbable that they will ever be employed in any such way. The idea of arraying savage beasts against human beings—though really no worse than many other things in war—is too shocking to the sentiments of civilized people.

So our canine comrades will doubtless remain noncombatants in military operations. If, however, they could be used effectually against the spies and stealthy assassins, there would be no more reason for protest than when watchdogs are used against burglars.

France, Germany and Great Britain are now manifesting much interest in this matter, and many experiments have been tried with encouraging results. There appears to be no good reason why the United States should not follow suit; for Uncle Sam, though apt to neglect warlike preparations in time of peace, invariably takes the lead in military innovations of every sort as soon as he has occasion for them.

CAVALRY CAPTURE SHIPS.

French Hussars Successfully Charged Dutch Man-of-War—Frozen in the Texel.

[Copyright, 1898.]

It seems rather preposterous to read of ships taken by cavalry—the gunners at their stations between decks cannoading men on horseback, the marines in the tops blazing away at galloping troopers, the sailors clustering anxiously along the side waiting to repel the attack of spurred and booted boarders. In short, a cavalry charge, quite like any other cavalry charge, up to the very gun muzzles of a man-of-war. It was during the French revolution, in 1795, that the unique battle took place, when the hussars of Gen. Pichegru's advance guard captured the Dutch fleet lying in the Texel.

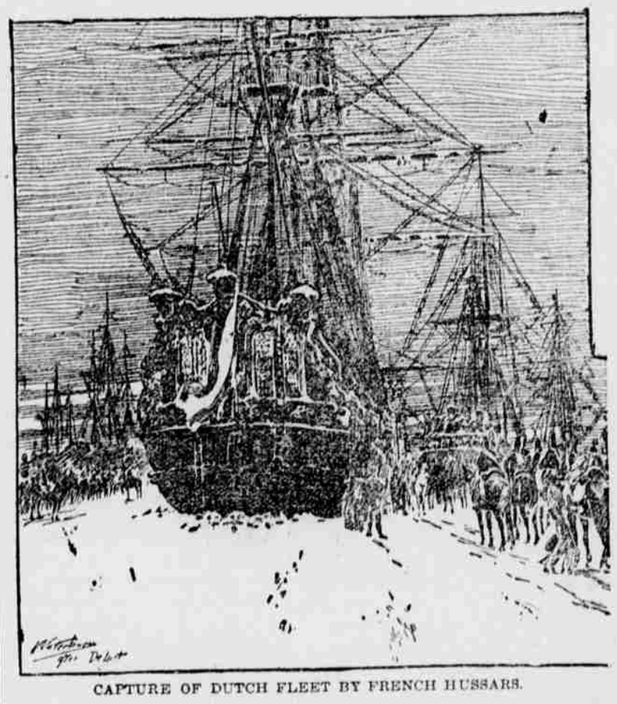
It was one of the coldest winters ever known in Central Europe and the ditches and rivers that go to make up such a large part of Holland were frozen solid. These conditions had enabled Pichegru to enter the Dutch territory with his troops, which overran the country with all the fury of fire in dry grass, sweeping everything before them.

On the 19th of January the victorious army of the French entered Amsterdam, the city having surrendered without resistance worthy the name. In the Texel, near by, lay a Dutch fleet consisting of a frigate and several large sloops-of-war. The Texel was frozen solid, save for the holes that had been made in an unsuccessful attempt to cut the ships out.

The French hussars, who constituted Pichegru's advance guard, discovered the presence and plight of the Dutch ships, and not waiting for the infantry or artillery to come up, decided to undertake their capture forthwith. Trusting to the thickness of the ice to sustain the weight of their horses, they boldly charged straight out across the slippery surface of the harbor and up to the very guns of the men-of-war, from the opened portholes of which peered the astonished seamen.

They had expected some sort of demonstration from the French army, but had hardly anticipated a cavalry charge, an occurrence not provided for by any rules laid down in the study of seamanship.

The fire of the French troopers at point-blank pistol range drove the sailors from their posts beside the guns and compelled them to surrender. It may have been, too, that the French were helped to their easy victory by the astonishment and surprise of the Dutch salts.



CAPTURE OF DUTCH FLEET BY FRENCH HUSSARS.